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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A biologically pure culture comprising:
a biochemical pathway comprising an operon that encodes for selective cleavage of both C-N bonds of carbazole, said operon comprising a *carAa* gene (SEQ ID NO. 1) and a *carAc* gene (SEQ ID NO. 2) from *Sphingomonas sp.* ATCC No. BAA-487 and a *carAd* gene (SEQ ID NO. 3) from at least one of said *Sphingomonas sp.* ATCC No. BAA-487 and *Pseudomonas resinovorans* CA10.

21. (Canceled)

Claims 22-24 (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

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26. (Currently amended) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 20, wherein said operon comprises ~~at least one gene capable of converting said carbazole to 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol~~ and at least one additional gene capable of selectively cleaving the C-N bond in said 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 26, wherein said at least one additional gene capable of cleaving the C-N bond in said 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol encodes an amidase capable of selective cleavage of the C-N bond of said 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol.

29. (Previously presented) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 28, wherein said at least one additional gene is an *amdA* gene (SEQ ID NO. 4) from *Rhodococcus erythropolis* MP50.

30. (Canceled)

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31. (Currently amended) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 20, wherein said operon comprises ~~active *car* genes consisting of *carAa* (SEQ ID NO. 1), *carAc* (SEQ ID NO. 2), and *carAd* (SEQ ID NO. 3)~~ and one of an *amdA* gene (SEQ ID NO. 4) from *Rhodococcus erythropolis* MP50 and a *triA* gene of *Pseudomonas sp.* NTTLB-12227 (GenBank Accession No. AF312304).